

*lepid*a and *Paykullia maculata* have been recently discovered in the valley and it is possible that careful observation of the numbers of these insects may in future yield useful information on the size of woodlouse populations which, given the ravages of Dutch Elm disease during the past 20 years, with the consequential presence of large amounts of dead timber, could well be expected to increase, with a proportional rise in the number of associated parasites. It is significant that Sutton (1972) notes that Beding found *P. maculata* to be the most common parasites of woodlice and this would lead one to expect it to be the species most frequently encountered in the field. Apparently this is not so, for Van Emden (*op. cit.*) records it as one of the rarer flies in this particular group, a contradiction that merits further investigation. In general, the flies are not particularly conspicuous or active in the field and an instance of interesting behaviour has been noticed when males of *Phyto discrepans* have been found on wooden fencing rails, for unlike the majority of other Diptera, they do not at once fly upwards into a tube placed over them, but tend to flatten themselves against the surface of the wood, which they leave with some reluctance.

Sarcophagidae

The subfamilies Miltogramminae and Macronychiinae with genera often having hymenopterous associations, have several representatives in the valley, some being conspicuous, while others are unlikely to be noticed without careful searching. Into the first category come *Metopia argyrocephala* with twinkling white orbits, *Miltogramma punctatum*, which is sometimes numerous in sandy places, occasionally in company with *Leucophora cinerea* (Anthomyiidae), while *Brachicoma devia*, in spite of close superficial resemblance to common sarcophagids, usually occurs in large enough numbers to find its way into the net on several occasions during a year. The second category includes *Macronychia unguans*, which seems to be confined to woodlands glades and paths where it is elusive and scarce; *Ptychoneura cylindrica*, a small fly taken once on a fallen birch trunk and *Amobia signata*, which has been captured once on fallen timber and once on a woodland path. Certain sarcophagine species, notably *S. carnaria* and *S. incisilobata* are amongst the most frequently encountered flies in the locality, while *S. crassimargo*, *S. dissimilis* and *S. haemorrhoea* occur in some numbers on more marshy sites.

(To be continued)

LARVAE OF THE LEAST ARCHES: *NOLA CONFUSALIS* H.-S. AND *ROESLERSTAMMIA ERXLEBELLA* F. ON LIME. — It may be of interest to record that while beating flowers of *Tilia* sp. for *Eupithecia egenaria* H.-S. at Lynford, Norfolk on the 19th July 1981, in addition to *egenaria* larvae, I beat out from the blossoms about a dozen larvae of *Nola confusalis* and a number of larvae of *Roeslerstammia erxlebella*. The latter in due course produced moths, and the *confusalis* are at present in their characteristic boat-shaped cocoons. — J. L. FENN, 4 Pearces Close, Hochwald, Thetford, Norfolk.